

## INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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#### BUFFALO THRIVE IN ALASKA

A herd of 23 buffalo transplanted to Alaska 5 years ago has thrived and more than doubled in number, according to a report to the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The animals, observed this fall in two herds on the Jarvis Creek flats southeast of Fairbanks, now number 60, including calves and yearlings.

The Alaska Game Commission and the Biological Survey in 1928 transferred the buffalo to the Territory from the Bureau's bison range in Montana. Funds for the purpose were appropriated by the Territorial Legislature. In spite of some fatal accidents, the animals soon accommodated themselves to the new environment, and by 1931 their number had increased to 29.

The transplanted herd is of special interest, says the Biological Survey, because the animals composing it are the first to live in that region in recent times. In the Pleistocene era the group was represented by other species, apparently larger than the modern ones, and now long extinct. The nearest wild buffalo now live in the region of Great Slave Lake, in the Mackenzie Valley of central Canada, at least a thousand miles to the southeast. These are closely related to the form now being established in the region where their prehistoric relatives lived so long ago.

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